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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 100201414-3IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Steven E Soar et al
Application No.: 10/681030
Filing Date: Sep 11, 2003
Title: Floating Aperture Encoder

Confirmation No.: 6766
Examiner: MAI, LAM T.
Group Art Unit: 2621

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- (X) under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
(Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)
- () under 37 CFR 1.97 (c) together with either a:
() Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or
() a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(After the CFR 1.97 (b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)
- () under 37 CFR 1.97 (d) together with a:
() Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) or (2), and
() a \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).
(Filed after final action, a notice of allowance, on or before payment of the issue fee)

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of \$0.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.

(X) Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449 - Information Disclosure Statement together with any required copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

() A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

- () I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Date of Deposit: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Steven E Soar et al

By R.D.W.

Robert D. Wasson

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
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Date: 1-21-2004

Telephone No.: 360 212 2338

- (X) I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number (703) 872-9308 on Jan. 21, 2004.
Number of pages: 10

Typed Name: Rick de la TorreSignature: [Signature]

Rev 10/03 (DISCOPF)

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Your Reference: P033388GB
Application No: GB 0312709.9

1 December 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 30 December 2003. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 30 December 2003 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

*Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.

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PATENT APPLICATION

Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 100201414-3	APPLICATION NO. 10/661,030	CONFIRMATION NO. 6766
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	APPLICANT SOAR ET AL.		
(Use several sheets if necessary)	FILING DATE 09/11/2003	GROUP 2621	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figures Appear
	1A	US4375592	03/01/1983	COX ET AL.	(not attached)
	1B				
	1C				
	1D				
	1E				
	1F				
	1G				
	1H				
	1I				
	1J				
	1K				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT	Pages/Columns/Lines Where Relevant Passages/Figures Appear	Check if Translation attached
	1L	JP570207819	12/20/1982	RICOH	(attached)	
	1M					
	1N					
	1O					
	1P					

OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	1Q	GB SEARCH REPORT, EX. REES, 12/01/2003	(attached)
	1R		
	1S		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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Rev 10/03 (PTO1449)



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Application No: GB 0312709.9

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1 December 2003

Yours faithfully

Ian Rees

Ian Rees
Examiner

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Application No: GB 0312709.9
 Claims searched: 1 to 10

Examiner: Ian Rees
 Date of search: 28 November 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A		JP 570207819 RICOH. See figure 3 and PAJ abstract.
A		US 4375592 IBM. See column 3 (lines 25 to 54).

Categories:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^v:

G1A

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC^v:

G01D

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

EPODOC, WPI, PAJ

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